units, 43 have set up their ETP's in 7 units the ETP's are under construction, prosecution proceedings have been launched against 8 defaulting units, and 10 units have been closed down.

Effect of Pollution on Taj Mahal

1793. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Taj Mahal in Agra is adversely affected by industries functioning near it;

(b) whether Government propose to ban such industries near the monument;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The main pollutants of concern affecting the Taj Mahal are sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen. According to the ambient air quality survey carried out in Agra by the Central Pollution Control Board, the levels of these pollutants are within the prescribed standards.

(b) and (c) A trapezium surrounding the Taj Mahal has been constituted. No new polluting industry is allowed to be set up in this area. The existing industries have been asked to comply with the prescribed standards.

(d) Does not arise.

Percentage of Landmass to be covered by Forests

1794. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of landmass prescribed to be covered by forests in the National Forest Policy of 1952;

(b) the percentage of land actually under forest cover as on date;

(c) the forest and diverted to non-forest purpose during the last ten years;

(d) the steps taken to prevent ecological imbalance; and

(e) in what manner the new economic policy would ensure protection of country's envivronment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The current National Foerst Policy formulated in 1988 stipulates that one-third of the total land area of the country should be under forests or tree cover.

(b) As per the latest assessment done by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, based on the visual interpretation of sattllite imagery pertaining to the period 1987-89, 19.49 per cent of the geographical area of the country is under forest cover. This, however does not cover small scattered and linear tree plantations.

(c) A statement showing details of forest land diverted for non-forest purpose during last ten years is annexed. (*See below*).

(d) Legislative as well as administrative measures taken aim at preventing pollution of water and air, securing conservation of forests, cleaning up of water bodies and ensuring that developmental activities are carried out in a sustainable manner.

(e) The new industrial policy has stated that the pursuit of the objectives of the policy will be tempered by the need to preserve the environment. It has also stressed that zoning and Land Use Regulation and Environmental Legislation will continue to regulate industrial locations. Also, various fiscal and other measures recently taken for conservation of forests

and protection of environment, include:—

(i) Excise duty on craft paper used for packaging horticultural products is completely exempted.

(ii) Excise duty on M.D.F., plastic products, door windows, frames and panel boards of Aluminium is also reduced considerably.

(iii) Customs duty on the import of certain Pollution Control equipment has been reduced to 40 per cent.

(iv) A National Foerstry Action Programme is being drawn up for forestry development in the country in conformity with the National Forest Policy, 1988.

Statement

Details of diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose during last ten years

Year	Forest land diverted in hectares
1981	2672.04
1982	3246.54
1983	5702.01
1984	7837.59
1985	10608.07
1986	11963.11
1987	72780.05
1988	18765.35
1989	20365.05
1990	138551.33
TOTAL :	292491.14

Air Pollution in Delhi

1795. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Indian Express of 7th April, 1992 under the caption "Monitoring Delhi's Air";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Delhi has been described as the fourth most polluted city of the world as per World Health Organization survey of ambient air quality conducted between 1979 to 1984;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) whether the Central Pollution Control Board have also conducted any survey about Delhi's air and water polution; and

(e) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the World Health Organisation report, based on